

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 01135 230414Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 H-02 L-03 IO-14 NSC-05
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-----097138 230420Z /15
R 201845Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2585

UNCLAS ASUNCION 1135

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PA
SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL LETTER TO PRESIDENT STROESSNER

REF: GRAHAM/BRIGGS TELCON OF 3/20/78

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FOR DELIVERY A LETTER SIGNED BY FORTY-FOUR CONGRESSMEN ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT STROESSNER COMMENTING ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. WE HOPE TO EFFECT DELIVERY WHEN THE AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH STROESSNER, AS SOON AFTER HOLY WEEK AS POSSIBLE. LETTER DATED FEB. 16.

2. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS:
DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

AS MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR DEEP CONCERN FOR THE REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN PARAGUAY. WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE EVIDENCE SUGGESTING THAT CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES FOR DUE PROCESS ARE NOT OBSERVED AND THAT FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS ARE NOT PROTECTED.

THESE REPORTS ALLEGE THAT A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DETAINED WITHOUT TRIAL, THAT SOME HAVE BEEN TORTURED, AND THAT OTHERS HAVE SIMPLY DISAPPEARED. THE DEATHS OF MARIO ARZAMENDIA FLORIES, JOEL FILARTI GA

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SPERRATI, SIXTO MELGAREJO AND JUAN DE DIOS SALINAS, WE ARE TOLD, HAVE NEVER BEEN EXPLAINED AND WE HOPE THAT ALL THOSE -- DEAD AND MISSING -- WILL BE ACCOUNTED FOR.

ALTHOUGH A SERIES OF EMERGENCY DECREES HAS NULLIFIED THE BASIC LEGAL STANDARDS SET FORTH IN THE CONSTITUTION OF PARAGUAY, WE ARE DEEPLY AWARE OF THE SIGNIFICANT GUARANTEES OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS WHICH ARE ENSHRINED

IN THAT HISTORICAL DOCUMENT.

WE RECOGNIZE ALSO, AND COMMEND MOST WARMLY, YOUR EXCELLENCY'S CO-OPERATION WITH THE FORTHCOMING INVESTIGATION BY THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR REPORT AND TO EVERY MEASURE THAT WILL BE TAKEN TO SUPPORT THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND ATTENTION.
SINCERELY,

3. THE FORTY-FOUR CONGRESSMEN WHO SIGNED THIS LETTER ARE:

RICHARD L. OTTINGER	JOHN KREBS
BOB CARR	ANDREW MAGUIRE
MILLICENT FENWICK	JAMES L. OBERSTAR
EDWARD MARKEY	DALE KILDEE
PATRICIA SCHROEDER	BENJAMIN S. ROSENTHAL
HENRY WAXMAN	ROBERT F. DRINAN
DAVID L. CORNWELL	EDWARD W. PATTISON
NEWTON I. STEERS, JR.	LEON E. PANETTA
HELEN S. NEYNER	DAVID E. BONIOR
DONALD M. FRASER	TIMOTHY E. WIRTH
LESTER L. WOLFF	ANTHONY TOBY MOFFETT
MICHAEL HARRINGTON	ANTHONY C. BEILENSON
LEO J. RYAN	FORTNEY H. STARK
PAUL SIMON	
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI	
DONALD J. PEASE	

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BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
DON EDWARDS
GLADYS NOON SPELLMAN
ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN
BRUCE F. VENTO
WILLIAM M. BRODHEAD
WILLIAM LEHMAN
AUSTIN J. MURPHY
PARREN J. MITCHELL
THEODORE S. EISS
BERKLEY BEDELL
PAUL N. MCCLOSKEY
STEPHEN J. SOLARZ
TOM HARKIN
JAMES H. SCHEUER.
BRIGGS

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Review Release Date: n/a
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